769 all, let us turn back to the second section of this chapter on the relationship between parents and children.[1] The first sub-section on the birth of children has the following:

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842
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> Although their feeling towards children seems to be rather indifferent, .....yet in case of childlessness the barren woman would go to the bamboo mountain at Hsff-chia-tu to beg the clan spirit (a cluster of golden bamboo) for a son. After worshipping and offering prayers she would sleep in the temple.

According to this conception the number of children one has or whether one has any at all is predestined by the clan spirit. The childless woman can go and beg from him. But this spirit is no other than a cluster of golden bambbo, and the name of the place where he resides
773 is the bamboo mountain. Thus, according to the Lolo, bamboo is the original source of mankind. In other words man is born from the bamboo, and they believe that their ancestors and they themselves have a blood relationship with the bamboo.

Secondly, if this assertion of their belief in the blood relationship with the bamboo is not far wrong, we can draw on the mythology concerning the origin of the White Lolo in the border regions of Yunnan and Kwangsi to help us understand this relationship.

> In very ancient times, along the Han river there floated a tube of fragrant bamboo. When the tube reached the river bank it exploded and a man appeared. The man, whose name was "a tsa", was able to speak as soon as he was born..... He lived in a hole underground, and subsisted on wild fruits and hunting. One day as he took a

[1] [This section has not been translated.--Analyst]

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584 and offered to perform for the amusement of Ah-yee and his household. The whole establishment turned out into the yard, and among them the young girl. She entered as heartily into the fun as any of the others. After the players had gone away Ah-yee discovered that in the band was the young Earth Eye who wanted his daughter. The enterprising young fellow had bribed the strollers to let him be one of their band temporarily, and on their consenting had led them to his would-be father-in-law's home. He enjoyed the adventure very much, and saw all that he wished to see. The father of the girl was wild at what he termed the great insult, and said that if he had found it out in time he would have given the suitor a sound thrashing. I wonder whether the girl repented at not having dressed in her very best on the occasion of the clandestine visit of her lover. Later the enterprising young fellow came to a terrible end, and the girl he wanted was given as second wife to his uncle, a man old enough to be her father.

[463] 292 751 While I was staying with Ah-yee I noticed that he had a tailor at work making a number of garments. One of these garments was of red flannel and had a number of Nosu words worked on the front. Ah-yee told me that these were a charm which would protect the wearer of the garment whenever he was in a fight or in great trouble. He gave me one such garment later on. I have had no need to test the protective qualities of this magic garment, and am afraid the donor did not believe the yarn he told me about the wonderful red jacket.

791 842 These great Earth Eyes are frequently the prey of wizards and necromancers. Lo-chee, in spite of his seven wives, had no son. A necromancer was consulted and he gave it as his verdict that the castle was built in the wrong position, so interfering with the hidden influences of the soil. In

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obedience to this verdict the stern Earth Eye who had so defied all the teaching of the Christians pulled his castle right down, and at great expense rebuilt it less than half-a-mile away. Since the necromancer's advice has been carried out there have been one or two births in the harem, which are always announced as sons. In some strange way these sons of Lo-chee, when they grow up, turn into daughters. Last year there was another bulletin announced, and it was to the effect that one of the Mrs Lo-chees had presented her husband with a son. It is too early yet to know whether the great change will take place with this one also. Let us hope, for the father's sake, that it will remain a son. Possibly if there were an heir to the estates the great Earth Eye would be more amenable to reason and the dictates of humanity.

A few years ago the principal building in another Earth Eye's castle, where Lo-chee's daughter went as wife, formed a peculiar landmark in the district. The castle is built on the extreme point of a steep hill at the foot of which two rivers run to a junction. Except to modern guns, the castle is almost impregnable. In the days when it was built it was so. The main building was all awry. One end of it was nearly twice as wide as the other, and the appearance of the crooked roof, narrow on the north side and wide on the south, was most uncanny. In passing by one wondered what kind of a place there could be on the top of the steep cliff. Wizards had been at work again, and by their advice this bizarre building had been erected in this wild place so difficult of access. No luck has, however, come to the three brothers living there, for in spite of seven or eight wives between them, I have never heard of the birth of a son and heir to the great castle and immense estates.